

REMARKS

In response to the May 18, 2004, written restriction requirement, applicants hereby elect Group I (i.e., claims 1-56) with traverse. In addition, applicants submit that the new claims being added by the amendment herein (i.e., claims 94-98) be grouped in Group II.

Applicants submit that the claimed subject matter of the different groups identified in the outstanding office action are closely related and, therefore, would require common areas of search and consideration. The claimed subject matter of Groups I and II are all related to methods of conducting G matrix Fourier transformation (GFT) nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) experiments in order to obtain assignments of chemical shift values of nuclei in a protein molecule and determine the structure of the protein and, thus, are closely related. Therefore, applicants submit that examining Groups I and II together in one application is proper and places no undue burden upon the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. As a result, no benefit is derived from maintaining the restriction requirement and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

In addition, applicants submit that the restriction requirement is improper because Groups I and II are not independent and distinct inventions. In particular, claims 90-98 of Group II, drawn to methods for obtaining assignments of chemical shift values of ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁵N of a protein molecule, indicates that the method involves conducting a combination of five GFT NMR experiments: (1) a (4,3)D [HNNCACBCA] GFT NMR experiment (corresponding to claims 24-25 of Group I); (2) a (5,3)D [HBHACBCACA(CO)NHN] GFT NMR experiment (corresponding to claims 37-38 of Group I); (3) a (5,3)D [HCC,CH-COSY] GFT NMR experiment (corresponding to claims 42-45 of Group I); (4) a (5,3)D [HBCBCGCDHD] GFT NMR experiment (corresponding to claims 46-47 of Group I); and (5) a (4,2)D [HCCH-COSY] GFT NMR experiment (corresponding to claims 49-52 of Group I). Since the combination as claimed by claims 94-98 of Group II requires the particulars of the subcombinations as claimed by claims 24-25, 37-38, 42-45, 46-47, and 49-52 of Group I, the inventions of Groups I and II are not distinct and the restriction requirement between these invention groups is improper.

In view of all of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request examination of all groups of the invention.

Respectfully submitted,

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